

## **ISSUE: Creating Meaningful Essay Opportunities in Native American Studies**

**BACKGROUND:** Often the teaching of Native American issues is separated from current events and/or the rest of dead white European male history even though the two cultures have developed simultaneously and continue to exist together contemporarily. The following is an example of the way assessment tools can be developed to address this oversight.

### **EXAMPLE LESSONS:**

**Title:** A Final Project Assignment for the novel I Heard the Owl Call My Name (a common text found in public school curriculum)

**Standard:** An assessment of this type will meet most of the content standards for 11<sup>th</sup> grade students.

**Grade Level:** 11<sup>th</sup> grade

### **FINAL PROJECT** **I Heard the Owl Call My Name**

As a final assessment of what you have gained from this novel, please write a two to three page paper addressing one of the following topics:

1. Analyze the values and beliefs of the two conflicting cultures (the Kwakiutl and European cultures). Explain which values seem to dominate within the conflict and why.
2. Compare the economic, political, and social systems of the two primary cultures presented in this book. Explain why these systems developed the way they did within each culture.
3. Describe the interdependence and competition that developed between the two primary cultures in this book. Explain the affects this intervention and competition had on the native culture.
4. Analyze the conflicts resulting from cultural assimilation and cultural preservation within the Kwakiutl tribe. What outcome do you predict and why?
5. Analyze the interactions between the Kwakiutls and the government, the church, the anthropologist, and the writer. Explain the motive and goals each (the government, the church, the anthropologist, and the writer) wished to achieve and how each particular way of thinking affected the tribe.

Begin brainstorming ideas in note taking form and begin outlining a basic order to your paper. Tomorrow and the next day we will be working on notes and outlines. You will need to do as much work on your paper outside of class as possible because I will expect

this paper in refined form and typed in a double-spaced format. Your paper will be graded on the following criteria:

- ☐ A clearly defined thesis statement (One sentence that sums up what you want to address in your paper.)
- ☐ A strong closing paragraph
- ☐ At least three supporting paragraphs in your paper that contain strong arguments for your thesis statement
- ☐ No spelling errors! (use spellcheck)
- ☐ Good grammar and sentence structure
- ☐ 2-3 pages in length (font size = 10 or 12)
- ☐ Use of a quote from the book or another source that supports your writing
- ☐ A sincere attempt on your part to find the answer

**Follow-up: It is helpful to read a few good essays from each of the topic choices following the assessment to further reinforce ideas that some students may not have focused on because they chose different writing options.**